REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	05 August 1999
Name of applicant/court:	Christian Heritage Party
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Untitled
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Artwork (ink on vellum)
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	Not Applicable

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:

Trailers: Running time:

Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Classification Office classifies the untitled artwork by Keith Haring as: Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

The classification has been reached by considering the artwork's treatment of matters of nudity and sex, as well as the impact of the medium and the character of the publication.

The publication is an untitled artwork by the New York artist Keith Haring. The work dates from 1981, and is rendered using black ink on white vellum. The artwork presents a large pyramid shape in the background. Hovering to the left of this is a spaceship. Twelve male figures stand in the foreground. One man appears to glow in rays that are cast down from the spaceship. The figures are drawn in a simple, symbolic manner and have no anatomical detail apart from their genitals.

The figures in the artwork all appear to be naked. The figures are drawn with minimal detail bearing little resemblance to actual people. This pictographic approach greatly reduces the impact of the nudity. The figures all appear to be holding their erect penises as they look toward the spacecraft. There is no indication that their body stance relates to masturbation, although this is one possible reading. This stance could as easily be an act of protection given their nakedness in what appears to be a potentially hostile situation.

Keith Haring is widely regarded as an artist of international stature. His work reflects the time and place within which he was living and painting. His work deals with issues that were of concern to his generation including peace, ecological responsibility, exploitation and sexual orientation. The cartoon-like manner of his art enabled him to deal with these difficult subjects in a symbolic rather than descriptive manner.

The artwork is likely to be made available within the context of an art gallery setting. The gallery presents a framework within which to view the painting, providing information about the artist and the artworks to assist the viewer in interpreting the image.

There are no matters to be discussed under s3(2) or s3(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. In order to provide a degree of interpretation to the artwork, parental guidance is recommended.

OFLC Ref: 9900912